

“Surviving Relational Failure as a Parent”
Proverbs 22:6

Why is raising children sometimes frustrating?

1. We don't always know what to do.
2. We feel an incredible responsibility.

“Train up a child in the way that he should go, and even when he is old he will not depart from it”
Proverbs 22:6

“Homes are built on the foundation of wisdom and understanding.” Proverbs 24:3

Sources of frustration in raising children:

1. The child may not be anything like us.
2. One child may not be anything like another.

Two major mistakes in raising kids:

1. We tend to raise our kids the way we were raised.
2. We tend to compare our children with each other.

The parent's responsibility:

1. To help our child know who he or she is
2. To develop our child's good bents

Good bents are developed when the parent:

- A. Understands that God has a plan for that child
- B. Looks for the uniqueness of the child by accepting them as they are
- C. Provides opportunities for gifts to develop in the child
- D. Provides a climate of encouragement for the child through affection, affirmation and attention
- E. I must express love to my children.

“Above all, love each other deeply because love covers a multitude of sins.” 1 Peter 4:8

3. To oppose our child's bad bents

Bad bents can be battled when the parent:

- A. Gets inside help
- B. Understands each child's bad bents
- C. Disciplines them consistently

“The Lord disciplines those whom He loves.” Hebrews 12:6

“If you refuse to discipline your son it proves you don't love him.” Proverbs 13:24

“Discipline your children while they are young enough to learn. If you don’t you’re helping them destroy themselves.” Proverbs 19:18

“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out all fear, because fear has to do with punishment.” 1 John 4:18

Discipline: Calmly, quickly, and sparingly

Six practical applications from today’s teaching:

1. Determine your priorities
2. Record your observations
3. Share your feelings
4. Pray with your child
5. Pray for your child: Spiritually, relationally, academically, physically
6. Be honest about your failures

“Help us as parents to be what we want our children to be. To see Christ in us, especially when we are tired and rushed. Help us never to be too busy to stop and listen to them with all our attention. Lord, guide us so that we will have no habits that we would not want them to have. Give us the courage to withhold a privilege which we think would not be best for them. Lord, let them see that the Christian life is the greatest life on earth. Lord, what we want more than anything else is to love them and care for them as you love and care for us. Thank you for being my loving father. Help us to be their loving parents. Amen.”